INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE
DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING
SH2088917

On May 27, 2003, the Internal Affairs Bureau Shooting Response Team went to Compton Station's area regarding a on-duty deputy involved non-hit shooting. The team consisted of Sergeants Brian Morris, Henry Reyes, Clay Porlier, Larry Gregg, and Lieutenant Greg Johnson.

Additional individuals also responded:

Attorney Ben Jones - Office of Independent Review.
Deputy Deborah Tombol - Force Training.
Deputies Greg McKnight and Bruce Lang - Civil Litigation Unit.

Investigators learned that Deputy Anthony Willis and Deputy Tony Bowie were involved in a shooting. Deputy Willis was a Training Officer and Deputy Bowie was his regularly assigned Trainee. They were working a two-man unit (282 PM). Deputy Willis was driving and Deputy Bowie was the passenger.

At the time investigators arrived, the incident was completely over and the crime scene was preserved. Detective Art Flores from Compton Station Detective Bureau was the detective assigned to handle the criminal aspect of the incident. The involved personnel were at Compton Station and the suspect was uninjured and in custody at Century Regional Detention Facility.

Investigators learned that at about 10:15 PM, Deputies Willis and Bowie were driving west on Magnolia Street near Matthisen Avenue, when they attempted to stop a lone male who was riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. The male initially slowed his bicycle and appeared to be stopping. Deputy Bowie exited the radio car and the male rode away. Deputy Willis drove the radio car a few houses forward until he was along side the male. The male stopped, bailed from his bicycle, attempted to enter a fenced yard, then began to run. As he did, he withdrew a handgun from his right front pants pocket. The deputies chased the suspect about three house lengths east, back to Matthisen Avenue, where the male turned the corner and ran north. After turning the corner, the man turned toward the deputies and pointed his gun at them. Both deputies fired at the man. The suspect fell to the ground, but immediately got back up and continued running north. The deputies discontinued their chase and established a containment of the area. The suspect was later captured during a search of the area with Sheriff's canine units. The suspect was not bit by the police dog. A continued search for the suspect's gun was completed. The gun was never found.

Deputy Anthony Willis was interviewed by Sergeants Morris and Reyes at Compton Station on May 28, 2003, at about 1:40 AM (approximately 3 ½ hours after the incident). Deputy Willis chose to provide a statement without having a representative present. Attorney Ben Jones was present during the interview, but did not participate in it. Deputy Willis agreed to Mr. Jones' presence. The interview was audio recorded.

Deputy Willis said he is a Training Officer and Deputy Bowie is his regularly assigned trainee. He said he has been working with Deputy Bowie for two months. He said during the incident they were working unit 282. He said they were both wearing standard full Sheriff's Class-A uniforms and were driving a marked black and white patrol car marked "Compton Sheriff" on the doors.

Deputy Willis said he and Deputy Bowie were driving west on Magnolia Street approaching Matthisen Avenue, when they saw a male (Later identified as Suspect Ahmad Brown) riding a bicycle on the south sidewalk, also traveling west. Deputy Willis said as they crossed Matthisen Avenue, he told Brown to stop. He said it was his intention to talk to Brown about the vehicle code violation of riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. He said Brown had his left hand on the handlebars and his right hand in his right front pants pocket. Deputy Willis said this did not occur to him as significant at the time he initially tried to stop Brown.

Deputy Willis said Brown did not acknowledge his initial verbal commands to stop. Deputy Willis said he activated the full rotating emergency lights on his radio car and momentarily activated the siren a couple of times. He said Brown slowed his bicycle and appeared to be stopping. He said he stopped the radio car and Deputy Bowie exited and approached Brown, who was still on the sidewalk astride his bicycle. He said as Deputy Bowie neared Brown, Brown quickly rode off on the bicycle, continuing west on the sidewalk. Deputy Willis said he accelerated the radio car and pulled along side Brown, within a few house lengths. He then pulled the radio car close to the south side of the street in an attempt to cut Brown off.

> **I.A.B. Note:** Deputy Willis said he attempted to "cut Brown off" with his radio car. The radio car was found still facing in a westerly direction just off center of Magnolia Street. Brown's bicycle was laying on the sidewalk slightly behind the radio car. Although Deputy Willis said his intention was to "cut Brown off," there is no evidence he actually did that. According the personnel on the scene, neither the radio car, nor the bicycle were ever moved.

Deputy Willis said when he "cut off" Brown, Brown jumped off his bicycle and tried to enter the fenced front yard adjacent to his bicycle ([redacted]). Deputy Willis said there were several people in the front yard. He said those people told Brown to leave and they were not going to help him. He said Brown turned away from the yard in a northerly direction and withdrew a small dark semi-automatic pistol from his right front pants pocket. Deputy Willis said he was still in the radio car at that point and was about 8 to 15 feet away from Brown. He said Brown began running, pointed the gun at him, and continued in a northeasterly direction across Magnolia Street toward Matthisen Avenue.

Deputy Willis said because of the way the contact unfolded, Brown was essentially between him and Deputy Bowie, who was running west on the sidewalk from the point east where he originally exited the radio car and attempted to contact Brown *(refer to picture #10 for a depiction of this)*. Deputy Willis said he exited his radio car, withdrew his own gun, and yelled to Deputy Bowie that Brown had a gun. He said he and Deputy Bowie chased Brown.

Deputy Willis said when Brown reached Matthisen Avenue, he turned and continued north. He said Brown turned to the right and pointed his gun at them, as he ran. He said Deputy Bowie fired twice at Brown with his handgun and he saw Brown fall to the ground near the east curb. He said Brown rolled up to the right into a semi-seated position and aimed his gun at them again. He said at that point he fired one round at Brown. He said Brown got up, continued running the short distance to School Street, where he turned east and ran around the corner. Deputy Willis said he and Deputy Bowie continued to chase Brown to the corner of School Street. He said once they got there, they did not see Brown, so they stopped, requested assistance, and established a containment of the area. He said the entire incident only lasted about 30 seconds.

Deputy Willis said once the containment was set up, he and Deputy Bowie reported to the Command Post and were taken to Compton Station. He said it was his understanding that Brown was subsequently located by a canine unit and arrested.

Deputy Willis said to his knowledge he has never contacted Brown in the past. He said when Brown pointed his gun at him, he was not certain if Brown fired or not. He said he does not believe he did because he did not recall seeing a muzzle flash.

Deputy Willis estimated he was about 20 feet from Brown at the point he fired at him.

> **I.A.B. Note:** The actual distance from the deputies to Suspect Brown when the shooting occurred is unknown, because the exact location of Brown is unknown. There was information from both deputies that suggests Suspect Brown was near the east curb line of Matthisen Avenue near a parked green van. One of the deputies bullets struck the front of the green van which was parked in a driveway on the east side of Matthisen Avenue. Given the known location of the deputies expended shell casings and the known location of the bullet strike in the van, the actual distance between the deputies and the suspect could have been as great as 138 feet. *Refer to the enclosed pictures and diagrams for further clarification.*

Deputy Tony Bowie was interviewed by Sergeants Morris and Reyes at Compton Station on May 28, 2003, at about 2:11 AM (approximately 4 hours after the incident). Deputy Bowie chose to provide a statement without having a representative present. Attorney Ben Jones was present during the interview, but did not participate in it. Deputy Bowie agreed to Mr. Jones' presence. The interview was audio recorded.

Deputy Bowie said he was on training status assigned to Compton Station. He said Deputy Willis is his regularly assigned training officer. He said during the incident they were working unit 282. He said they were both wearing standard full Sheriff's Class-A uniforms and were driving a black and white patrol car marked "Compton Sheriff" or "Sheriff" on the doors.

Deputy Bowie said they were driving west on Magnolia Street approaching Matthisen Avenue when they saw a male (Later identified as Suspect Ahmad Brown) riding a bicycle on the south sidewalk, also traveling west. Deputy Bowie said Brown seemed to notice their presence and began riding faster. He said he noticed Brown had his right hand on the outside of his right front pants pocket.

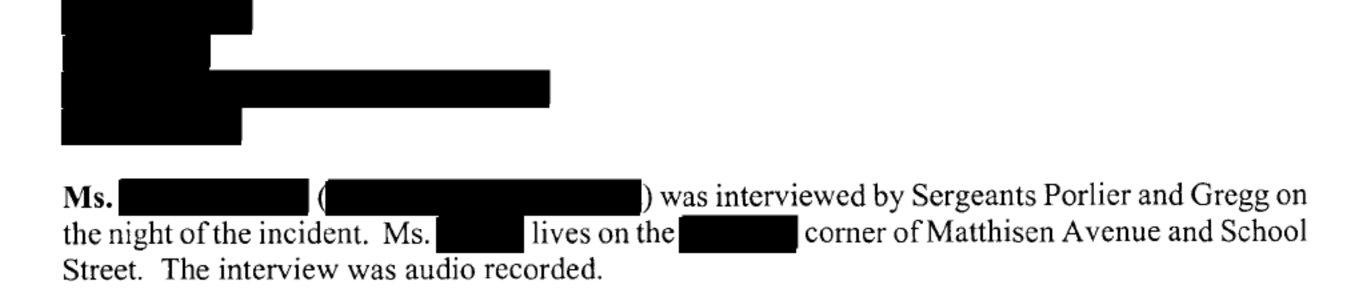
Deputy Bowie said he yelled at Brown to stop, but he did not. Deputy Bowie said near Matthisen Avenue, Brown slowed down and appeared to be stopping. He said he exited the radio car to contact Brown because he was riding his bicycle on the sidewalk. He said as he neared Brown, Brown took off on the bicycle and continued west bound. Deputy Bowie said he began chasing Brown along the sidewalk. He said Deputy Willis accelerate their radio car and drove ahead of Brown and stopped.

He said he saw Brown stop, get off his bicycle, and try to enter the gate of the front yard of a house ([redacted]). He said he saw people in the yard of that house and saw they were saying something to Brown, although he could not hear what it was because of the distance he was from them. Deputy Bowie said Brown then ran diagonally across Magnolia Street in a northeasterly direction. He said he saw Deputy Willis running after him. Deputy Bowie said he ran across the street in the opposing angle toward Brown, in an attempt to capture him. He said during this time he saw that Brown had a pistol in his right hand.

> **I.A.B. Note:** The Pictures section of this case contains pictures which depict the paths of travel during this incident. A review of those pictures will assist in clarifying the information provided by the deputies.

Deputy Bowie said when Brown got to Matthisen Avenue, he ran north. Deputy Bowie said during this time he was yelling at Brown, "Stop! Stop! Drop the weapon!" He said Brown continued to run. Deputy Bowie said at that time he was about 20-25 feet from the corner of Matthisen Avenue and Magnolia Street and Brown was further north, near a green van. He said Brown turned and pointed the gun at him, so he fired three rounds at Brown. He said immediately after firing his three rounds, he heard a forth gun shot from behind him. He said he turned and noticed Deputy Willis was beside him and had apparently fired his weapon as well.

Deputy Bowie said when he fired his weapon, Brown fell to the ground and he (Bowie) got "tunnel vision" thinking to himself, "I shot him." He said Brown immediately got back up and continued running north bound toward School Street. He said when Brown got to School Street, he tuned east and ran around the corner out of view. Deputy Bowie said he was cautious about running around the corner in case Brown was "lying in wait for him." He said he heard Deputy Willis broadcasting the shooting information on the radio and he heard the distant sound of responding units. He said they cautiously looked around the corner of School Street, but did not see Brown. He said at that point they held their position and contained the area.



[redacted]

Ms. [redacted] ([redacted]) was interviewed by Sergeants Porlier and Gregg on the night of the incident. Ms. [redacted] lives on the [redacted] corner of Matthisen Avenue and School Street. The interview was audio recorded.

Ms. [redacted] said she was laying on her bed when she heard the sound of someone yelling. She said she could not distinguish what was being yelled. She said she went to her door and looked out. She said she saw someone running toward her house, then run around a van.

She said she heard one gun shot and initially thought it was a firecracker, until she heard additional shots. She said she thought she heard between three and six shots. She said she heard the first shot, then looked out her window and saw someone running, she said she ran to the door and heard additional shots.

Ms. [redacted] said she looked out her door and saw two deputies running toward her house, fairly close to one another, from the area of Magnolia Street and Matthisen Avenue, near a street light and saw another individual near a van on the other side of the street.

> **I.A.B. Note:** The locations described by Ms. [redacted] are consistent with the location of the deputies expended shell casing and the location of Suspect Brown, based on the deputies reported information.

Ms. [redacted] said after the shots were fired, the male ran around the house on the southeast corner of School Street and Matthisen Avenue. He ran around a parked Cadillac, then ran into some bushes. She said she could not see anything in Suspect Brown's hands. She said she was very frightened and was worried about her children, so she did not pay close attention to the details of what she was seeing. Ms. [redacted] said she did not see anyone else on the street during this time.

[redacted]

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants Porlier and Gregg on the night of the incident. The interview was audio recorded.

Upon initial contact with investigators, Mr. [redacted] was evasive. He said his name was "Leon Jones." He said he and his two children, who he did not identify, were at the location visiting. He said they were inside and did not see anything.

> **I.A.B. Note:** Mr. [redacted] reference to the location he was visiting was [redacted] Magnolia Street. This is the apartment complex where Suspect Brown discarded his bicycle and ran from the deputies.

As Mr. [redacted] began to elaborate about what he heard, he told investigators he was actually outside and provided the following account of the incident.

Mr. [redacted] said he was at the location attending a bar-b-que. He said he was outside at the gate of the complex and about to walk through it, when he saw a male on a bicycle approaching. He said

the male got off his bike and began yanking on the gate, in an apparent attempt to open it. Mr. [redacted] said the male was dressed in black with a "beanie or something" on his head. He said the male did not appear to know what he was doing or how to open the gate, which was locked. Mr. [redacted] said he heard a screech and saw lights from a police car. He said a deputy jumped out of the car and approached the male, along with a second deputy. Mr. [redacted] said the police car was driven by a single deputy and he did not see where the second deputy came from. He said the deputies appeared to be cutting the cyclist off and it appeared that they were "cornering" him. Mr. [redacted] said he heard one of the deputies instruct the male to "get down" or "stop." He said the male took off running, eastbound along the south side of the street, then cut between some parked cars and up ran north on Matthisen Avenue. Mr. [redacted] said the manner in which the male ran was as if he was on "drugs or something" because his hands were in the air. Mr. [redacted] said the deputies chased the male with their guns drawn and were approximately 8 to 10 feet behind him. Mr. [redacted] said when the male was in the middle of the street, just north of Magnolia Street on Matthisen Avenue, he heard one of the deputies say, "Shoot him." He said at that point the "black deputy" (Deputy Bowie) started shooting. He said the deputy shot one round, then shoot two more in succession, then one or two more. Mr. [redacted] said he could not see the male when the deputy was shooting, because he (the male) had turned the corner and was out of view. Mr. [redacted] said the deputies then continued running after the male.

[redacted]

Ms. [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants Porlier and Gregg on the night of the incident. The interview was audio recorded.

> **I.A.B. Note:** Ms. [redacted] house is located on the [redacted] corner of Magnolia Street and Matthisen Avenue. Deputies Bowie and Willis were directly across from her house, near the west curb of Matthisen Avenue curb when they fired their weapons.

Ms. [redacted] said she and a friend, Mr. [redacted], were in the house when she heard gun shots. She said she initially thought they were firecrackers and went to the side door, which faces Matthisen Avenue. She said when she looked out the door, she saw a deputy apparently chasing someone. She said she never saw the person. Ms. [redacted] said she couldn't tell what the deputy looked like because it was dark. However, she described him as "kinda heavy set" and possibly Hispanic. She said the deputy had his gun out and she did not see any other deputies.

> **I.A.B. Note:** Deputy Willis is a tall white man with short blond hair. Deputy Willis is a heavy set black man with a medium complexion. Ms. [redacted] description could easily fit Deputy Bowie, but is not even remotely close to that of Deputy Willis.

Ms. [redacted] said prior to the shooting she heard voices, but she couldn't tell what they were saying. She said there were about three shots and described them as sounding the same.

[redacted]

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants Porlier and Gregg on the night of the incident. The interview was audio recorded.

Mr. [redacted] related essentially the same story as Ms. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] said he and Ms. [redacted] were in the house together when the shots went off. He said Ms. [redacted] got up, went to the door, and said, "The police are out there."

Mr. [redacted] said he heard 3 to 4 shots. He described them as being spaced apart. He said his initial thought was that they were "individual firecrackers."

[redacted]

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants Porlier and Gregg on the night of the incident. Mr. [redacted] lives on the [redacted] corner of Matthisen Avenue and Magnolia Street. Deputies Willis and Bowie were standing at the curb adjacent to his house when the shooting occurred. The interview was audio recorded.

Mr. [redacted] said he was opening his front door to allow guests in, when he saw the police on the street east of his house. Mr. [redacted] said the deputies were in a patrol car and they called out to a male who was on the sidewalk to stop. He said the male suddenly broke into a run and ran away from the deputies. Mr. [redacted] said the deputies were yelling at the male to stop. Mr. [redacted] said the deputies were in their car and appeared to be chasing the male in an attempting to stop him. He said the male turned and began running toward him.

> **I.A.B. Note:** Mr. [redacted] statement was that the male was on foot. He never mentioned a bicycle. His version of the initial contact is consistent with that of the involved deputies, sans the bicycle.
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> Mr. [redacted] house is situated on the [redacted] corner of Magnolia Street and Matthisen Avenue. The Deputies chased the male across Mr. [redacted]s lawn and were directly adjacent to his house when the shooting occurred.

Mr. [redacted] said the male was about 10 feet from his porch, when he heard one of the deputies yell, "Stop or I'll shoot." Mr. [redacted] said his front door was open and it appeared as if the male was going

to run into his (Mr. [redacted] house. Mr. [redacted] said he entered his house and slammed the door behind him. He said he then heard shots. He said he looked outside and it appeared as if the male had either slipped or fallen. He said the male suddenly got up and began running again, out of view.

Mr. [redacted] described the man as a black male, wearing blue or black clothing with a hat. Mr. [redacted] said he noticed that as the male was running from the deputies, it appeared as if he had something in his right hand. Mr. [redacted] was not able to elaborate on the object any further.

Suspect Ahmad Brown was contacted by Sergeant Brian Morris and Detective Art Flores at Century Regional Detention Facility at about 3:30 AM on May 28, 2003 (approximately 41/2 hours after the incident). Brown invoked his right to remain silent and would not provide a statement.

No additional witnesses were not located. Deputies from Compton Station canvassed the area in an attempt to identify witnesses. They did not locate any. They made several contacts with the listed results:

No one was home or no one answered the door at the following addresses:



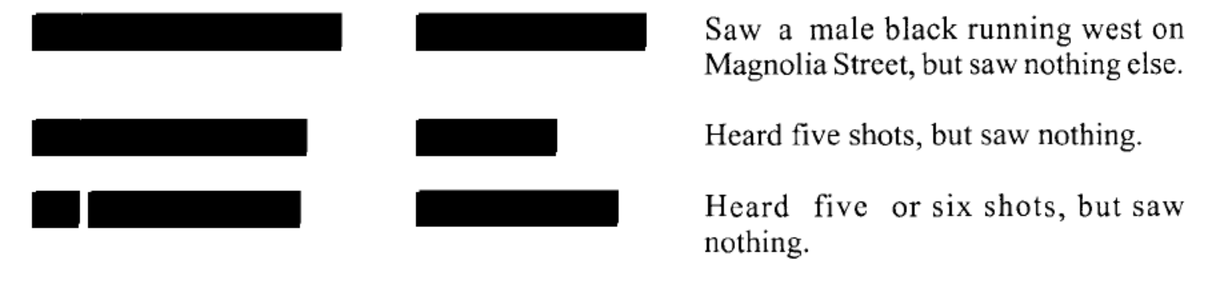
[redacted]

The following individuals were contacted and said they neither saw nor heard anything:



[redacted]

The following individuals were contacted as follows:



[redacted] [redacted] Saw a male black running west on Magnolia Street, but saw nothing else.

[redacted] [redacted] Heard five shots, but saw nothing.

[redacted] [redacted] Heard five or six shots, but saw nothing.

The Compton Station deputies completed Canvass Cards on each of these individuals and fully identified them. The canvass cards are contained in an envelope and are in this case in the Miscellaneous Documents Section.

Evidence: Personnel from the Sheriff's Crime Lab responded to the location. They identified three bullet strikes, but recovered no bullets. Based on the statements of the involved personnel it is likely their bullets which struck the objects. One bullet strike was in the front bumper at a green van which was parked in the driveway of [redacted] School. The second was in the garage of [redacted] W. School Street behind the van, and the third was in the grass near the sidewalk's edge of [redacted] W. School Street. Refer to the Crime Lab's report and diagram contained in this case (Exhibit-B).

Prosecution: Suspect Brown was charged in Compton Court with the below listed felonies. At the time of this report he had a next scheduled court date of August 14, 2003. Case #TA070218

> **245(d) (1) P.C.** Any person who commits an assault with a firearm upon the person of a peace officer or firefighter, and who knows or reasonably should know that the victim is a peace officer or firefighter engaged in the performance of his or her duties, when the peace officer or firefighter is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for four, six, or eight years.
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> **417.8 P.C.** Every person who draws or exhibits any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or other deadly weapon, with the intent to resist or prevent the arrest or detention of himself or another by a peace officer shall be imprisoned in the state prison for two, three, or four years.
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> **12021 (a) (1) P.C.** Any person who has been convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States, of the State of California, or any other state, government, or country, or of an offense enumerated in subdivision (a), (b), or (d) of Section 12001.6, or who is addicted to the use of any narcotic drug, who owns or has in his or her possession or under his or her custody or control any firearm is guilty of a felony.

Suspect Brown's criminal history is located within Exhibit-A. [redacted]